

Message Text

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17

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TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJ: THE TRANSITION: THE COMMANDER OF THE BUNKER SPEAKS

1. THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENTRY INTO COMBAT OF THE BLUE DIVISION, THAT VOLUNTEER UNIT OF THE SPANISH ARMY WHICH FOUGHT IN WORLD WAR II WITH THE NAZI ARMY ON THE RUSSIAN FRONT, WAS MARKED BY A SPEECH BY JOSE ANTONIO GIRON, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF VETERANS AND NATIONAL COUNSELOR OF THE MOVIMIENTO AND BY COMMON CONSENT THE LEADER OF THE "BUNKER", THOSE WHO WANT FRANQUISMO AFTER FRANCO. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN RECENT MEMORY THAT THIS PECULIAR ANNIVERSARY HAS BEEN SO MARKED OUT.

2. GIRON WARNED THAT SPAIN HAS ENTERED INTO A DANGEROUS MOMENT OF TRANSITION ALL TOO LIKE THAT OF THE PRE-CIVIL WAR ERA AND AGAINST REPETITION OF THE POLITICAL FRAGMENTATION WHICH BROUGHT ON THE CIVIL WAR. JULY 18, 1936 MADE "POSSIBLE POLITICAL UNITY WHILE RESPECTING A PLURALITY OF SENTIMENTS, BELIEFS AND INDIVIDUAL INTERPRETATIONS . .NO ONE OPPOSES THE MANIFESTATION OF THESE INTERPRETATIONS IN THE BOSOM OF THE MOVEMENT" SO LONG AS THEY ARE ACCOMPANIED BY ABSOLUTE

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LOYALTY TO "THE HIGH NATIONAL IDEALS WHICH CHARACTERIZE

THE REGIME." POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS ARE PERMISSIBLE. POLITICAL PARTIES ARE NOT. POLITICAL PARTIES DIVIDE; POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS UNITE. BY ADHERING TO THE "ORDERED EVOLUTION" OF THE FUNDAMENTAL LAWS OF THE REGIME AND BY IGNORING THE INTERNATIONAL CLAMOR WHICH IS, AS ALWAYS, ANTI-SPAIN, SPANIARDS WILL PASS THROUGH THE PRESENT CRISIS WITH "EQUILIBRIUM AND SERENITY," (VIRTURS NOTICEABLY ABSENT FROM GIRON'S SPEECH).

3. XENOPHOBIA AND THE INTOLERANCE OF DISSENT ARE GIRON'S PRINCIPAL THEMES. (HE EVEN EQUATES TERRORISM WITH THE EXISTENCE OF PERIODICALS OPPOSED TO THE REGIME.) GIRON ALSO STATED THAT THE CIVIL WAR WAS FOUGHT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE. GIRON, WHO IS RATHER WEALTHY, CALLS FOR AN END TO THE PRIVILEGED DISTRIBUTION OF POWER AMONG THE FEW.

4. IN EFFECT, GIRON SEES THE PRESENT SITUATION OF SPAIN IN TERMS OF THE PAST. HE REJECTS SEPARATISM JUST AS HE REJECTS POLITICAL PARTIES AND HE SEES THE PRINCE ONLY AS THE HEIR OF FRANCO. BUT HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT THE PRINCIPLES OF JULY 18 HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY IMPLEMENTED, EVEN, PERHAPS, THAT IN THEIR SOCIAL IMPACT THEY HAVE BEEN IN SOME MEASURE BETRAYED. IN THIS FASHION HE IS A THORN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT, WHICH HE SEES AS WEAK-KNEED AND AVARICIOUS, JUST AS HE IS A SYMBOL OF 40 YEARS REPRESSION FOR THE OPPOSITION.

5. GIRON REPRESENTS A SINGULAR SPANISH PHENOMENON, THE IMPORTANT MINORITY OF THE GENUINE FALANGISTS. TO THEM CHANGE IS SUSPECT, AND THERE CAN BE NO COMPROMISE ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE REGIME. THEY PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN BRINGING TO A HALT ARIAS' LIMITED APERTURISMO. EVEN WITH FRANCO GONE, THEY WILL BE AN OBSTACLE TO ANY EVOLUTION TOWARD PLURALISM.

STABLER

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